



PATENT
Docket No. 10235/4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Yoshihiro, SATO
Serial No. : 09/242,561
Filed : February 19, 1999
For : METHOD FOR RETAINING MINUTE DROPLET,
REACTION AND REACTION VESSEL
Group Art Unit : 1655
Examiner : Forman, B.

BOX AF
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Madame:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 24, 2001. Accordingly, this response is due on or before October 24, 2001. It is respectfully requested that the following amendments be entered to place this application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Thrice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:
providing a planar substrate;
providing an oily liquid layer;
providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily layer; and
shooting a minute droplet by inkjet technique of said aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer to contact said planar substrate,